THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Government are aware that a number of products are being marketed in India as food supplements. Food supplements are being exported and some of the food supplements of foreign origin are also finding their way into India. Government are aware of the need for an Act to regulate production and marketing and export of food supplements.

Replacement of old cable in Rajasthan

*268. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to replace the old telecom cable with the optical fibre cable in all major cities of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the changeover would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) There are plans to open 27 New RSUs (Remote Switching Units) & 12 DLCs (Digital Loop Carrier) system in major cities of Rajasthan Circle during 2002-2003 by using OFC (Optical Fibre Cable) from main exchange to RSU/DLC. Thus most of Telephone Connections working on old telecom cable shall be transferred to OF cables. However copper cable shall continue to be used from RSUs/DLCs to subscribers' premises for short distances.

(c) This is a continuous process as every year RSUs/DLCs are planned and commissioned depending upon the availability of resources thereby replacing the old Telecom cable by OF cable.

Grants to Nepal

*269. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to grant an assistance of Rs. 840 million to Nepal for setting up of the East-West Highway Optical Fibre Cable Network;